

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /113 W

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R 310630 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9432

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: GVN ANNOUNCES NEW MILITARY POLICY IN BINH THUAN

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO BIEN HOA CAN THO ANAL

MAR 30 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE NHA TRANG 344

1. FOLLOWING REPORT RECEIVED FROM POLOFF IN PHAN THIET MARCH 29:
2. COL. NGO HFN NGHIA, BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF, HAS PUBLISHED HIS INTENTION TO REACT WITHOUT CONSTRAINT TO ANY NEW VC VIOLATION OF CEASE- FIRE. THIS POSITION IS MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN THAT REPRESENTED BY JGS INSTRUCTIONS ON RETALIATION WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT EARLY THIS MONTH.
3. IN LETTER OF MARCH 27 TO COL. NGUYEN MANH DINH, CHIEF OF GVN ELEMENT OF REGIONAL JMC IN PHAN THIET, COL. NGHIA WROTE: " HENCE- FORTH, IS VC SIDE BREAKS CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENT, OUR FORCES WILL HAVE RIGHT TO PURSUE THEM UNTIL SAFETY OF OUR UNITS AND PEOPLE ARE FULLY PROTECTED... WE WILL FIGHT AND PURSUE VC WHENEVER THE OTHER SIDE ATTACKS OUR FORCES, PEOPLE, VILLAGE, HAMLETS AND HEREAS UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROLOF GVN." IN JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS STA , LETTER CITES REPORTS OF COCAINUING VC VIOLATITGS, INCLUDING HAMLET INCURSIONS, FLAG- RAIS-INGS, KIDNAPPINGS, AND TORTURING AND KILLINGS OF KIDNAP VICTIMS WHO TRY

UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ESCAPE. NGHIA ASSERTS THAT GVN CONTROLLED BINH THUAN' S POPULATED AREAS AND LOC' S AT TIME OF CEASE- FIRE; THAT GVN FOR ITS PART IS OBSERVING AGREEMENT: AND THAT POPULAR INDIGNA-TION AGAINST VC IN RUNNING HIGH. THEREFORE GVN IN REACTING STRONGLY WILL BE " CARRYING OUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE."

4. NGHIABL HLETTER ASKS DINH TO " REQUEST THE MZC TOIANSTRUCT AND ORDER THEIR SUBORDINATE GROUPS TO RESPECT THE FOUR- PARTY AGREEMENT, RETURN TO THEIR OWN AREAS, STOP SENDING THEIR SOLD CRS TO ARABLE LAND THAT BELONGS TO VILLAGES AND HAMLETS UNDER OUR CONTROL, AND STOP KIDNAPPING OUR PEOPLE."

5. COPIES OF LETTER, WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION MADE ON MARCH 28, WENT TO ICCS REGIONAL DELEGATIONS IN PHAN THIET AND TO VARIOUS GVN OFFICES INCLUDING CENTRAL GVN JMC CONTINGENT IN SAIGON.

6. POLOFF COMMENT: NGHIA' S LETTER IS A DEPRESSING FINALE TO EFFORTS OF FPJMC IN PHAN THIET; ITS LAST MEETING, HELD MARCH 28, WAS CEREMONIAL, BUT PRG DEL IS UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE OF NGHIA' S NEW POSITION. FURTHER, NO ASSURANCE EXISTS THAT ANY GVN- PRG NEGOTIA-TIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN PHAN THIET. ALTHOUGH GVN REGIONAL JMC DELEGATION REMAINS IN PLACE PENDING FURTHER ORDERS, AND ALTHOUGH COL. DINH SAID AS LATE MARCH 28 THAT HE EXPECTED PRG DEL TO REMAIN ALSO FOR INTERIM NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO ESTABLISHMENT OF TPJMC, US JMC ELEMENT GOT IMPRESSION AT FINAL FOUR- PARTY MEETING THAT PRG CONTINGENT WANTED TO LEAVE PHAN THIET NO LATER THAN US AND DRV COMPONENTS (BOTH OF WHICH SCHEDULED TO DEPART TODAY, MARCH

30). DECONTROL JUNE 30, 1973. SIGNED ENGLE UNQUOTE
BENNETT

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON05317
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730342/aaaaimkj.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980109
Subject: GVN ANNOUNCES NEW MILITARY POLICY IN BINH THUAN
TAGS: MOPS, VS
To: EA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO JEC PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005